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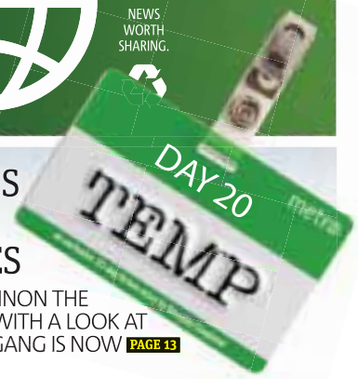

AND THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES

THE TALE OF SHANNON THE TEMP WRAPS UP WITH A LOOK AT WHERE THE OLD GANG IS NOW PAGE 13

ON YOUR MARKS, SHOPPERS

Shoppers wait in line outside the Times Square Toys "R" Us in New York City on Thursday. Instead of waiting for Black Friday, which is typically the year's biggest shopping day, more than a dozen major retailers opened on American Thanksgiving this year. Canadian retailers have been catching the Black Friday wave in recent years. Metro spoke with local shoppers to get their take on the big shopping day. Story, page 4. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's up? Docs' salaries

13 per cent increase over three years. New deal with province's ER doctors could help recruiting: Health minister

The Saskatchewan government has signed a new contract with emergency-room doctors and hopes that higher salaries will help recruit more physicians.

The agreement is for a 13 per cent wage increase over three years.

Premier Brad Wall says that will bring wages for ER doctors to between $300,000 and $400,000 a year, depending on how many hours they work.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan said on Thursday that having a deal will help with recruiting efforts.

Regina's Pasqua Hospital was planning to close its emergency department overnight due to a shortage of doctors. But that was averted at the last minute when ER doctors agreed to work extra shifts until more physicians can be hired.

"We are compensating at a rate comparable to the province of Alberta, I believe, comparable to the province of B.C. and also Ontario and a bit better, frankly, than some other provinces," Wall said during question period at the legislature on Thursday.

"We will be in a position where we can bring in emergency-room physicians for the long term, to be able to stabilize the numbers, to give them a better work-life balance and address some of the concerns that they have had," Duncan added.

The health region has said that despite efforts to recruit doctors, staffing levels are one-third below what is needed to keep both of the city's emergency departments open.

The Opposition New Democrats have said the shortage is a sign of larger issues such as overcrowding and overwork in ERs. NDP health critic Danielle Chartier said retention of doctors is just as important as recruitment.

She said a lack of other support staff in ERs is another reason that doctors leave.

CJME, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shutdown averted

The shutdown at the Pasqua Hospital ER between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. was supposed to start Thursday night.

- But the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region announced Thursday morning that doctors have agreed to work extra shifts until more physicians can be brought in temporarily.
- People are still being asked only to visit emergency departments due to serious injury or illness.

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Saskatchewan teenager punches his way to the top

Junior C. Joshua Ravelo becomes national boxing champion

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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Saskatchewan boxer Joshua Ravelo has brawled his way into a prestigious spot on the national stage.

Ravelo took home the gold in the 57-kilogram weight category at the national Junior C boxing championship in Quebec City last week — a victory that guarantees the 14-year-old Regina pugilist a spot on the Canadian junior team.

"It was really exciting. I was actually pretty shocked I made it that far," Ravelo told Metro on Thursday.

"I really pushed it hard on the last round of the finals.... It was a really big accomplishment for me."

In preparation for the tournament, Ravelo trained for nearly four hours a day, starting his fitness regime at 5 a.m.

Boxing since the age of nine, he said the sport has "taught him how to work harder, be a nice person ... and be humble."

George Goff, a coach at the Regina Boxing Club and president of the provincial association for the sport, praised Ravelo's determination during the title bout.

"Joshua boxed well in the second and third rounds. He was aggressive," Goff said in a press release.

"His opponent ran and kept his head down most of the last two rounds, making it a more difficult bout, but Joshua kept the pressure on him to win the bout."

The victory, however, might come as no surprise to keen observers of the sport, as Ravelo is the third national Junior C champion to come out of the Regina Boxing Club since 2007.

He follows boxer Tammara Thibeault, who won in 2012, and Drake Thauberger, a three-time men's Canadian Junior C champion from 2007 to 2009.

Saskatchewan's Joshua Ravelo, right, after defeating Nova Scotia's Tyler MacDow in a unanimous 3-0 decision in Quebec City before progressing to the final and earning the Canadian junior championship. COURTESY BOXING CANADA

Review

City to scour Lawson pool for source of air problems

The City of Regina is pledging to conduct a thorough review of the ventilation system at Lawson Aquatic Centre after regional health authorities raised concerns on Tuesday about the pool's air quality.

"The health and safety of users of the Lawson is always a top priority for the city," Jason Carlston, deputy city manager for community planning and development, said in a press release on Thursday.

The city has tasked two aquatic-facility experts with reviewing all of Lawson's mechanical and operational systems.

While declaring the pool safe, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is recommending that swimmers doing intense physical activity and those with respiratory problems not use the facility because of air-quality concerns. METRO

Legislation

Province cracks down on drunk driving

The Saskatchewan Party government introduced legislation on Thursday aimed at curbing drunk driving by mandating longer licence suspensions, vehicle seizures and ignition interlocks.

"Drinking and driving is a lethal combination, one that causes far too many deaths in our province," Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance, said in a prepared statement of the amendments to the Traffic Safety Act.

"With the new laws being put into place, Saskatchewan will have one of the toughest packages of impaired-driving legislation in Canada."

The legislation — if passed as expected in the spring — will allow a photo-radar pilot project at what the government describes as "high-risk locations" and in school zones. It will also make booster seats mandatory for children under the age of seven if they meet height and weight requirements. METRO

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Black Friday's shopping temptation

Despite Black Friday's retail rush hitting malls and stores across the U.S. as part of the Thanksgiving tradition south of the border, some businesses in Saskatchewan and across Canada are urging shoppers to spend their money at home instead. Metro asked several people in Regina on Thursday whether they plan to spend big bucks on Black Friday, either in the Queen City or in the States.

SARAH TAGUIAM
sarah.taguiam@metronews.ca

Kevin Wilson, 37, labourer

"No, I'm avoiding the stores like crazy ... because it's going to be insane! I can wait an extra day or two to do Christmas shopping."

Amanda Elliott, 23, sales associate

"No, probably not ... just because I work in retail, so I get all my discounted clothes anyway. But if I was a normal person, I would definitely go shopping."

Himmat Panwar, 26, retail sales manager

"Of course! Before the customers, I'll be in the mall so I will go and look around at what's there — and on my break, I can go and shop around. I have to buy some suits, pants, and I'll be in the stores upstairs to buy a laptop."

Anna Marie Paradis, 45, customer service representative

"No, I don't think so. Probably because I will just shop all of December for Christmas. I was going to the States just to see, but I think it's way overrated."

Taylor Gerwing, 18, student

"Probably. I work tomorrow until 5:30, but probably. I have no clue what to get, but Foot Locker's got some good stuff."

Trent Phillips, 46, concrete labourer

"Yes, I am. I need a fridge and stove badly. I heard it was (cheaper on Friday). That's why I'm kind of looking at the prices right now, but I could have gotten better prices at New Year's after Boxing Day."

Agriculture. Fed up farmers say major railways won't deliver crops on time

Prairie farm groups frustrated by delays in shipping grain this fall want the federal government to do more to penalize rail companies that don't deliver crops in a timely way.

Doug Chorney of Keystone Agricultural Producers said the backlog is so bad that mountains of wheat and other crops are building up outside jammed grain elevators. As prices fall, farmers are wondering what good a record bumper crop is to them if they can't get it to market. "There is grain in piles across Western Canada," Chorney said from Brandon, Man. "This creates big cash-flow problems for farmers. We all have bills to pay."

Chorney and his counterparts in Saskatchewan and Alberta blame the major railways for not putting enough trains and grain cars in service to haul crops to ports for export.

They are also pointing their fingers at federal legislation proclaimed last June that was supposed to deal with such situations.

Norm Hall, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, said the Fair Rail Freight Service Act is just not effective. He said the legislation needs to be amended to make it easier to hit railway companies with fines over transportation bottlenecks. The legislation does include a provision for possible penalties of up to $100,000, but only if a government arbitrator decides a signed service agreement between a shipping company and a railway has been violated.

Officials with Transport Canada and Agriculture Canada said they could not immediately respond.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TYLENOL NIGHTTIME

Duffy audit. Tories block key witness on alleged interference

Conservative senators blocked a bid Thursday to have a key figure from the audit firm Deloitte testify about alleged interference into the review of Sen. Mike Duffy's expenses.

The move came as the Senate's internal economy committee heard from three other Deloitte partners about the audit they had done into Duffy's living claims between February and May.

Deloitte's Gary Timm confirmed what had been revealed in a police report last week — that Michael Runia, one of the firm's managing partners, called him to inquire about the Duffy audit. Runia was not a member of the audit team.

An RCMP court filing last week revealed that Runia made the call at the request of Conservative Sen. Irving Gerstein, who in turn had been prompted by the Prime Minister's Office.

"As I indicated before, he wanted to know if Sen. Duffy were to repay (his expenses), how much would it amount to," Timm said of Runia.

"I said I couldn't tell him, I couldn't disclose any confidential information to him — that was the gist of the conversation."

Timm said that he notified others at the firm about the call, but no report was made back to the Senate committee — Deloitte's client — about the matter.

When Liberal Sen. George Furey later moved to have Runia appear to answer questions, Sen. Gerald Comeau, the Conservative chairman of the committee, ruled against him, saying it's not the committee's job to conduct police-style investigations.

A subsequent vote, which included Comeau's Conservative colleagues, upheld the ruling, much to Furey's disappointment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

G20 summit

U.S. spied and Canada knew about it: CBC

The defence minister is standing by the national eavesdropping agency amid new allegations of spying on world leaders on Canadian soil. Documents leaked by a former spy contractor indicate the United States conducted widespread surveillance at the Toronto G20 summit in 2010 — and CSEC knew about it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trail of dust

Comet ISON no match for the sun

Once billed as the comet of the century, Comet ISON probably didn't survive its run in with the sun. Scientists said images from NASA spacecraft showed the comet approaching for a slingshot around the sun on Thursday, but just a trail of dust coming out on the other end.

The comet was first spotted by a Russian telescope in September last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers walk out after colleague's suicide

Halifax. One employee says management harassed Peter MacKenzie to get him to retire sooner

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

Workers at the Halifax Shipyard walked off the job on Thursday after they say a fellow worker killed himself following months of harassment. HALEY RYAN/METRO IN HALIFAX

Nearly 200 workers at the Irving Shipyard in Halifax walked off the job Thursday morning after employees said resentment "boiled over" when they learned a co-worker had killed himself following a suspension, and what they say was months of harassment by management.

A shipyard worker who preferred not to give his name said he "almost cried right on the spot" when he heard of Peter MacKenzie's death, who he said he worked with for 25 years.

"He was singled out and harassed in many regards," said the man. "We've had enough and it's as simple as that … it boiled over."

Workers left their jobs around 7:30 a.m., lining both sides of Barrington Street at the bottom of Devonshire Avenue and crossing the street each time the lights changed.

Union president Cliff Pickrem said MacKenzie was suspended for 30 days due to poor workmanship on his scaffolding Tuesday, but later heard an engineer say the work was "quite up to standard."

In a statement, Irving said "It is not appropriate to speak about details regarding individual employees."

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said they received a suicide call for a home in Eastern Passage on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. and found a 58-year-old man dead.

Metro reached out to the victim's family, who preferred not to comment.

Tyler Stewart, 29, was among many who said the company has become much harsher and more disciplinary in the last year and half since Irving won the national shipbuilding contract and new management came in.

"A lot of the older gentlemen, they're trying to almost make them retire … they want to make their lives miserable," Stewart said. "Unfortunately it has to come to this to make a better situation."

Pickrem and national union rep Rick Rose came from negotiations just before noon and said Irving's president was flying to Halifax. They told the crowd management understood their frustration, but was asking everyone to continue working.

Many shouted "no way" and left the property, saying they would return Friday.

"We're going to have conversations we haven't had for quite some time to reset things, and make sure everybody feels confident that we can do the work we need to do," said Rose.

Irving spokesperson Deborah Page said in a statement they are "working extremely hard to create a positive, effective and productive work environment at Halifax Shipyard — and for that we need employees to be at work, and the union and company to work together."

R.I.P

"Our thoughts and hearts go out to Peter's family and friends, and to all here at the shipyard who worked with him."

Statement from Irving regarding the death of Peter MacKenzie

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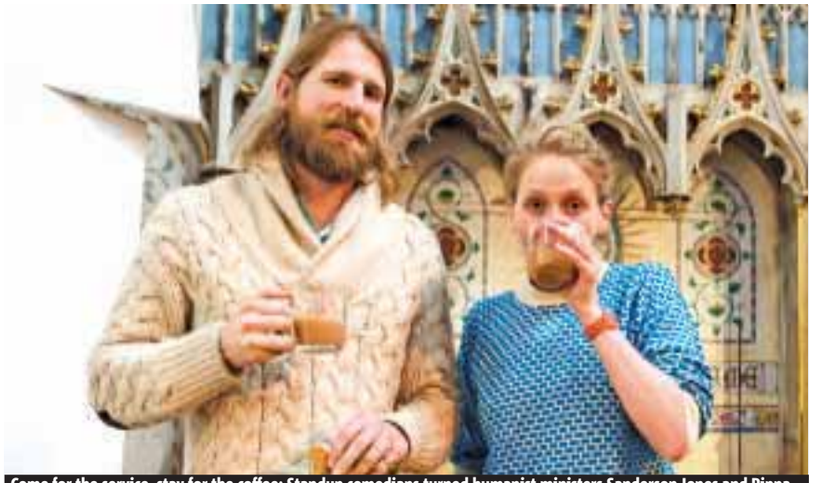
Non-believers start their own global church

Our father, who art in England? Atheist collective claims to be the fastest-growing church in the world

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London, U.K.



Come for the service, stay for the coffee: Standup comedians turned humanist ministers Sanderson Jones and Pippa Evans lead London, England's leading atheist church, the Sunday Assembly. NICK CUNARD/METRO WORLD NEWS

Minister Sanderson Jones addresses the crowd. NICK CUNARD/METRO WORLD NEWS

The congregation at a Sunday Assembly service. NICK CUNARD/METRO WORLD NEWS

The Sunday Assembly started small in 2012, hosting monthly ceremonies at a deconsecrated church in a chic London, England, suburb. Founded by comedians Sanderson Jones and Pippa Evans, the events sought to combine the warmth of a congregation with irreverent entertainment, featuring songs and life-affirming lectures.

As word spread, the assembly became a community of active participants, inspired by the mantra of "live better, help often, wonder more." The local city council reclaimed their venue, but the assembly, undeterred, found new homes across London, the United Kingdom and beyond, as eager followers joined the movement and founded their own chapters. In the past two months, affiliated Sunday Assemblies have opened in 22 cities across five countries.

The creators deny that their idea has become another religion; they say they simply wish to provide the social hub missing in many godless communities. "We are born from nothing and go to nothing. Let's enjoy it together," proclaims the first of their 10 "commandments."

The Sunday Assembly now claims to be "the fastest-growing church in the world," citing a "3,000 per cent growth rate" in the past year. Jones and Evans have spent much of 2013 on tour — from the U.S. Bible Belt to the Australian outback — that will extend the reach further still.

The movement has not been without its critics, and the comedians are frequently heckled in traditionally religious areas, but the concept is now firmly established.

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HIV research. Federal government pledges $10.7 million to find cure

The federal government has earmarked $10.7 million for new research aimed at finding a cure for HIV as part of the global effort to eradicate AIDS.

Health Minister Rona Ambrose announced the five-year funding Thursday for two projects led by researchers in Montreal.

Dr. Eric Cohen at the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montreal will receive the bulk of the funding — $8.7 million — to lead the Canadian HIV Cure Enterprise. That project is a collaboration of the country's leading HIV researchers aimed at finding new approaches to curing HIV infection.

Dr. Hugo Soudeyns at the Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine will receive $2 million to head a project focused on curing babies and children who acquire HIV from their mothers during pregnancy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veteran suicides. Deaths under investigation

Beyond expressions of sympathy, the Harper government and the Canadian Forces appeared at a loss Thursday to explain a number of suicides this week among veterans of the war in Afghanistan.

The latest case involved a senior non-commissioned officer at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, northwest of Ottawa. Since the death occurred on the base, military police are investigating.

A Defence Department investigation into two other deaths in Western Canada is currently underway, a sombre and visibly moved Defence Minister Rob Nicholson told the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Challenges ahead for HIV survivors

Stigma. Long-term survival rates are high, but aging sufferers face prejudice, anxiety and depression

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

By 2015, half of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the West will be over 50. Given that the pandemic has claimed more than 35 million lives and was until recently considered a death sentence, long-term survival on this scale seems miraculous.

"There was a 'Lazarus effect' when retrovirals arrived in the 1990s," says Alice Welbourn, 55, first diagnosed with HIV in 1992. "People were getting up out of wheelchairs and the funerals stopped — it was amazing."

After diagnosis, it took a support group to stop Welbourn from killing herself. More than 20 years later, the British native is fit and healthy with an "undetectable viral load." She takes daily medication but is in no danger, and dedicates herself to promoting awareness around the condition, and its hidden dangers.

Isolation remains a problem, as people with HIV often struggle with relationships. "Attitudes haven't changed," says British-Italian Silvia Petretti, 44, who was diagnosed aged 30 and is perfectly healthy. "If I start a relationship I have to persuade them a) I'm not going to die, and b) I'm not going to infect them."

Isolation contributes to around 75 per cent of HIV sufferers experiencing mental health problems, according to the HIV and Later Life (HALL) project, the first major study into HIV and aging.

"High levels of anxiety and depression is concerning," said lead investigator of the study Professor Damien Ridge of the University of Westminster, U.K. "Many people said they need to talk about their HIV. But that's difficult when friends and family don't know what's happening due to stigma."

The study documents widespread rejection from family and friends, who associate the condition with homosexuality and drugs. People with HIV often internalize stigma and shame, says Petretti, who is also deputy chair of charity Positively U.K. "Often they feel they deserve to be rejected."

Petretti believes the current generation "owe their lives" to the first generation of people infected in the 1980s, whose campaigning led to the medical breakthroughs that made survival possible. She is inspired to continue their work.

"Any social movement relies on the people directly affected — as with civil rights or the suffragettes," she says. "Nothing will happen without us, which is why we need more solidarity."

Petretti works to extend support networks in countries in Eastern Europe and Africa, where education is suppressed and the epidemic spreads.

Both Petretti and Welbourn describe themselves as a test generation, the guinea pigs for new, unpredictable treatments. They hope that the next generation can beat the prejudice.

Silvia Petretti, deputy chair of Positively U.K., works to extend support to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa where education is suppressed.
COURTESY SILVIA PETRETTI

Argentina

Clash outside Monsanto plant

Argentine union members have clashed with environmentalists protesting the construction of a plant by U.S.-based seed giant Monsanto.

Local media report they came to blows outside the plant in Córdoba province Thursday.

Environmentalist Vanina Barboza charges in comments to local TV that workers from the Argentine Construction Union attacked the protest camp near the plant, injuring activists and stealing personal objects. Monsanto executive Adrian Vilalba accuses the environmentalists of destroying workers' cars.

Construction of the corn-processing plant was halted in October when environmentalists began disrupting entry of supplies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macdonald House

Government sells London mansion

Canada has sold the historic London mansion that houses part of the Canadian High Commission for $530 million to an Indian developer.

The government announced the sale of Macdonald House at One Grosvenor Square in London to the Mumbai-based Lodha Group.

Canada plans to consolidate its diplomatic activity at another historic property, Canada House on Trafalgar Square in the heart of London.

Foreign Affairs announced its plan to sell off diplomatic residences in March 2012 as part of a $170-million, cost-saving effort. But analysts have said the plan would hurt Canadian diplomacy as the government seeks to deepen trade. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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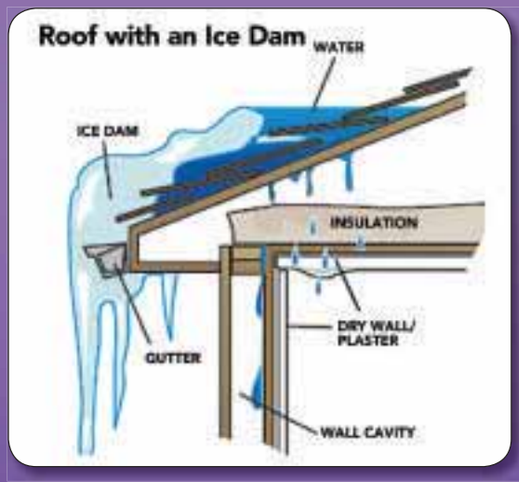

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Foreskin fight rages in Israel

Long-standing debate. Uproar follows religious court's penalizing divorced mother for refusing to circumcise son

An Israeli rabbinic court has fined a woman hundreds of dollars for refusing to circumcise her baby son, officials said Thursday, in a landmark case that has sparked a new uproar over the role of religion in the Jewish state.

The case shines a spotlight on a long-running debate over religious coercion in Israel, where generations of leaders have struggled to find a balance between the country's Jewish and democratic character.

The matter ended up in the rabbinic court as part of an ongoing divorce battle. The woman announced her refusal to circumcise the boy, saying she did not wish to harm him. The Israeli rabbinate's high court ruled last week the circumcision was for the child's welfare and that the woman must pay the equivalent of nearly $150 each day she refuses the circumcision.

"The decision is not based only on religious law. It is for the welfare of a Jewish child in Israel not to be different from his peers in this matter," said Shimon Yaakovi, legal adviser to the rabbinical court.

He said it was the first time a religious court in Israel has punished a parent for refusing to circumcise. A year ago, a civil court also ruled in favour of circumcision in a dispute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Theocracy charge

"(It's) dangerous for democracy.... It turns the government into a theocracy."

Ronit Tamir, anti-circumcision activist. Most Israelis are secular, but founders gave Judaism a formal place in the nation.

Israelis protest Thursday in support of a woman who refuses to have her son circumcised. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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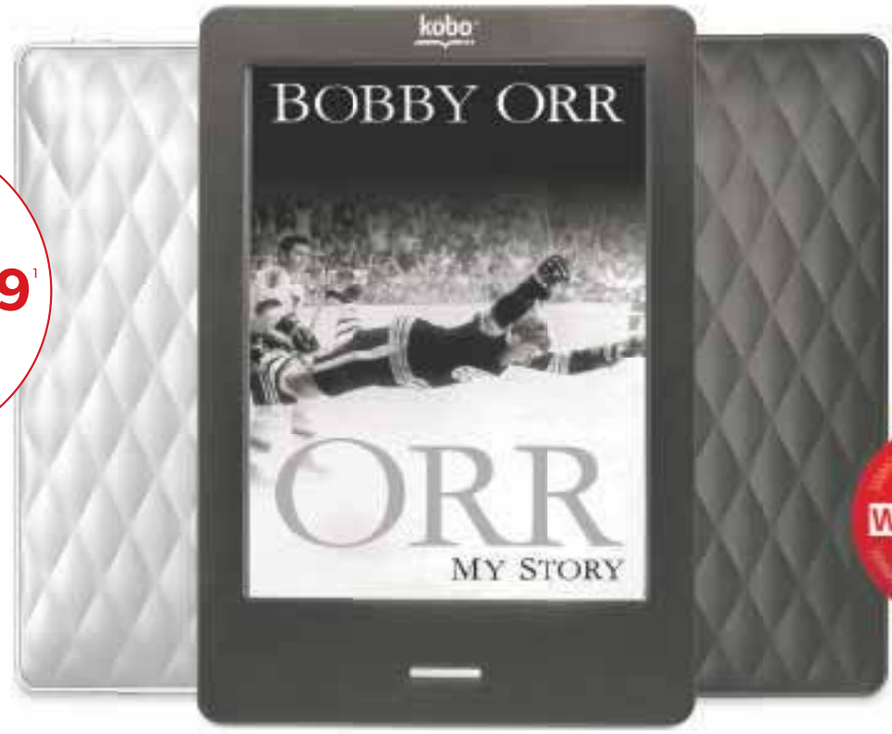

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Yikes! Ever feel like you're being tracked at the mall? Turns out you might be, with retailers turning to technology to track shoppers in a bid to tailor the shopping experience to customers. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

You're not paranoid, stores are spying on you

Online and IRL.
Retailers are tracking your movements using cookies, heat sensors and cellphone signals

Advances in technology have never made tailoring deals to shoppers this holiday season so easy — or so creepy.

Online stores have long-tracked your movements on the web through 'cookies.' And bricks-and-mortar stores have started tracking you too — experimenting with heat sensors and monitoring phone signals to see which aisles are most popular. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He knows what you're buying

"You can't have Christmas any more without big data ... You know that song where Santa knows when you've been sleeping? He knows when you're awake? That's where he's getting his information from."

Jeff Chester, executive director at the Center for Digital Democracy

Focus on technology

CN Rail launches $10M safety plan

Canadian National Railway Co. says it's investing $10 million in a special program to enhance its ability to detect equipment defects, such as hot wheels. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Urgent labour issue

Skills gap needs to be filled: Manley

Former cabinet minister John Manley says Canada needs to fix the labour skills gap before the country lags even further behind internationally. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recommendation. Ban federal instant messaging to preserve message trail

Canada's information watchdog is recommending a ban on instant messaging on federally issued BlackBerrys and other wireless devices because such messages evaporate so quickly, erasing part of the government record.

In a special report to Parliament, Suzanne Legault says instant messages are automatically deleted — usually after 30 days — meaning Canadians can't request them under the Access to Information Act. Legault says a government proposal would "put the right of access at further risk" by allowing instant messages to be auto-deleted after three days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another hit to BlackBerry

Some 98,000 BlackBerry devices have been issued to government institutions.

- But there is no government-wide policy on the use of text-based peer-to-peer forms of communication such as BlackBerry Messenger.

Random biz fact of the day

75%

75 per cent of job seekers use traditional networking to gather more information about a company. CAREERBUILDER

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Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 20

metronews.ca/temp

Temp Figures It All Out

If you came here expecting a happy ending, that's exactly what you're going to get. It's a few months later, I'm now Mrs. Xu, there are twin Xus in the offing, and the twins will be in line to inherit over a billion dollars. I remind myself of this every time I think of the coffee room's Girl Guide chocolate-bar honour box, and how horrified I always was to find out staffers had shortchanged it, and how I paid out the difference from my own pocket.

What about TWK? Don't worry about the old gang — they're doing just fine. The building is now home to Mr. Xu's vanity project (and mine), which is to be the world's largest online retailer of vintage and high-end sneakers. Sarah No. 1 is once again in charge of online marketing development, and Sarah No. 2 is back developing e-commerce strategy. This time, their decisions will have a chance of being implemented and making some kind of difference.

With a slight romantic twist, Sarah No. 3, who I never really got to know, is seeing Kyle, who quit the refinery after a week spent inhaling its magic aromas. Kyle is now getting a full sleeve of ink on each arm and is in charge of "Branding Atmosphere," which means — I'll be honest — I have no idea what, but I'm just so glad he's no longer inhaling oil. I'll always have a soft spot for that loveable lunkhead who kind of flirted with me, and who I kind of flirted with back when we were both younger and dumber.

The Danimal we now call "The Shaker" because we send him out doing anything that involves old-school middle-management people shaking each other's hands: Conferences and land leasing and that kind of stuff.

The present is all we have. And really, how does Kate Winslet manage to always drop those pounds?

It's a remarkably effective category and he loves it. Dan and Chantelle split up quite amicably. Chantelle and Darren are engaged and living in the gated community together. Chantelle's lips have shrunk and she looks a tiny bit more human and promises not to get more work done.

And the happiest ending of all is for Kurt, the old guy by the stoplight, who now has his own office out by the delivery bay where his main task is to sit, enjoy life and maybe watch the Carpenters on VHS — he refuses to go online.

So maybe you entered this story expecting there to be a Boogeyman — someone who we can yell at, and whack with sticks like a piñata. But there is no Boogeyman here. There's only the times we live in, and we can bitch about them or we can move forward, and if you don't move forward, well, you'll be left behind, left in the past, which makes no sense — because the present is all we have. And really, how does Kate Winslet manage to always drop those pounds?

THE END

Random fact of the day

The difference between poisonous and venomous animals: "If you bite it and you die, it's poisonous. If it bites you and you die, it's venomous."

SOURCE: WTFFUNFACT.COM

Random biz fact of the day

98%

An overwhelming majority of job recruiters used social media to search for candidates in 2012.

SOURCE: WORKOPOLIS

Wages

Equal work, equal pay

The Workers Action Centre is campaigning for equal pay as part of its advocacy for workers' rights, which includes approaching politicians and conducting online campaigns.

"Permanent workers are earning a lot more," said centre organizer Sonia Singh. "The typical statistic is that temp workers earn 40 per cent less than permanent workers.

"The government should include in the law that temp-agency workers receive the same wages as permanent workers when they are doing the same work." MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Race to the bottom

Government jobs no sure thing

Government temp jobs are no longer the coveted positions they used to be. Wages for temp workers in the public sector have fallen by up to 40 per cent since the feds started awarding contracts to the lowest bidder, according to the Association of Canadian Search, Employment and Staffing Services. METRO

The clock is ticking

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

TEMP is ... well, temporary

Douglas Coupland's 20-day novella is a pop-up project and will disappear from our website this Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST. If you've missed an instalment, there are still three days to catch up at temp.metronews.ca — before it is gone forever. METRO

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RON BURGUNDY? COMING TO WINNIPEG

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 **Tom Hanks.** In the most random moment of 2013 possibly, Hanks showed up at the Grey Cup in Regina. Turns out he was there cheering on the Tiger Cats with his L.A. pal Martin Short, a Hamilton native. Hanks wore a Ticats toque (and later a Riders toque), hung out with The Sheepdogs and sat in the chilly stands. Can we adopt him as ours?

2 **Twitter and Time.** This year, Time announced a unique new partnership with Twitter as part of their Person of the Year issue. Users can vote for their choice by tweeting with the hashtag #TIMEPOY. The readers' choice poll ends Dec. 4. So go ahead now and cast your vote for ... Miley?

3 **Movember wrap up.** I wore my mo proudly this year, and raised over $1,000 to join Mo's Platinum Club. One of the feel-good stories of this year was three buddies who cycled from Vancouver to Toronto and raised nearly $100,000 for Movember in their Moustache Ride Across Canada. Amazing guys, amazing cause.

4 **@bOringtweets.** Who would think that a boring Twitter account would be a hit? But it is. Its nearly 140,000 followers get tweets like "I've just looked at something," "I've just signed for a parcel for next door," and "I hope I dream about cardboard again. That was one crazy dream." I would keep giving you examples, but I have to watch paint dry.

5 **Ron Burgundy.** Will Ferrell's fictitious Anchorman character will be in Winnipeg this Sunday covering Canada's Olympic curling trials dubbed Roar of the Rings for TSN. They should consider hiring Burgundy permanently: Ratings would go through the roof.

6 **Toronto + Bon Jovi = NFL?** Toronto football fans were living on a prayer wondering whether their city would ever get an NFL franchise, but thanks to Bon Jovi, that might become a possibility. The rocker is a leading contender to buy the NFL's Buffalo Bills and with some powerful and rich T.O. friends, move them to the city.

7 **Global anchor Katie Couric.** No, not for Global News. Couric will now be the global anchor for the resurgent Yahoo. She will start next year and be the "face of Yahoo News," CEO Marissa Mayer wrote in a blog post. In effect, Couric will now be the global ambassador for Yahoo. This move is another example that the future of TV is online.

8 **Harvard.** The Ivy League school got some negative attention after a video was released asking students: "What is the capital of Canada?" and answers ranged from Vancouver to Ontario. Duh! It's not right, because us Canadians all know the capital of the United States is New York, eh?

9 **Social media jobs.** A Workopolis study says jobs for social media experts will be obsolete in 10 years as digital natives enter the workforce who are already able to do that work, so having social media skills will no longer be a differentiator for us digital immigrants. Also, we'll soon be able to schedule tweets 10 years in advance so our work here is complete.

10 **Paul Bissonnette.** You might not have heard of the Canadian NHLer but his Twitter account @BizNasty2point0 is a riot. His Twitter bio says: "Play in the NHL for the Phoenix Coyotes. Well sort of. Once played in the ECHL for the Wheeling Nailers, seriously, that was the name." With tweets like "If you ever feel insecure about your looks, go to the Vegas airport and sit at a nickel slot machine and smoke," this is a gem. 475,000+ followers agree.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Wood you believe it

ANDY WILLSHEER/REX FEATURES

Vintage vehicle created from oak

A man has made a VW Beetle — out of wood.

Momir Bojic from Celinac in Bosnia and Herzegovina has hand-built the impressive Bug with mind-boggling patience, using skilled woodworking to create intricate detailing. Everything from the bonnet to the gearshift has been carved by Momir in his garden workshop. **METRO**

Slow and steady wins building race

Progress was necessarily slow because of the work's labour-intensive nature.

Momir said: "Some days my wife and I might end up with just two or three rows of pieces on a panel, but this was irrelevant as far as I was concerned because I'm a bit of a perfectionist. Accuracy was far more important than worrying about how long the work was taking." **METRO**

Wife chips in for hubby's project

Momir, who spent time working at the Volkswagen Transporter manufacturing plant in Hanover, Germany, got some help from his wife Nada.

"I was intending to undertake the task by myself, but after my wife saw the amount of effort involved she felt I was crazy to try and do it all on my own and was happy to offer her assistance in the project." **METRO**

Motorbike made from locust wood

Momir isn't the only man from Eastern Europe adept at making wooden vehicles.

Istvan Puskas from Tiszaros, Hungary, spent two years building a motorcycle from weather-resistant black locust wood.

Puskas used cow horns as a handlebar and exhaust pipe, and a gasoline engine from an old Fiat. **METRO**

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Terrified of stepping foot in a shopping mall during Black Friday or the rest of the holiday season? There's a beautiful place you can pop into to get your shopping done without the Jingle Bells soundtrack, oversized faux cedar trees or never-ending lineups: The Internet.

ISTOCKIMAGES

Sift:

The site launched about a year ago as a website that mined your email looking for deals and promotions that may interest you. Now, with the help of $2 million for seed funding, they've launched an iPhone app that lets you shop right from your phone. Wait for their upcoming social function.

Slice:

Not exactly a shopping site, but more like an online shoppers personal assistant. Slice keeps track of what you buy and lets you know if you're eligible for a price adjustment, recalls, and other things you may want to know about your purchases.

Karmaloop:

Look sharp AND get good deals on trendy new weekending duds from Karmaloop. Site often has promo codes to get your saving started (Black Friday code is BLKLIGHT, FYI).

Comments

RE: Tips On (Cough) Hacking A Cold, by John Mazerolle, published Nov. 28

How about starting by improving your immune system.

I rarely get colds, and I haven't had the flu in 21 years, despite the fact that I work with a lot of people who get sick a lot. Flu shots..?? Never.

We are getting too caught up in cleanliness as a society. That's not to say I don't engage in personal hygiene. I just don't subscribe to the antibacterial everything that society wants us to.

My wife and four-year-old daughter also do not get sick. My daughter has been sick once since she was born. My tips..?? If you drop it on the floor, pick it up and eat it. If you cough, cough into your hand. And, eat a pound of dirt a week.

Remember, your immune system is an army, and an army needs practice to fight effectively. Take away its ability to practise, and when real germs come along, it will not be able to fight it, and you'll get sick.

ns_hunter posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

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Synopsis

The last couple of weeks have offered up the odd little treat at the movies, like an amuse-bouche to get our taste buds primed for the tastier stuff to follow in December. Not only does the 12th month give us Christmas, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve, we also get a delicious buffet of great movies. This week the Reel Guys look ahead to the 31 days that sate our appetite for great movies while feeding the voraciously hungry Oscars.

The Wolf of Wall Street, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, is one of the films to get excited for this Christmas. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

'Tis the season for great films

Ones to watch. The weather outside is frightful, so duck inside to catch one of the movies the Reel Guys are looking forward to

Richard: Mark, people complain that trailers give away too much of the story, but one upcoming movie has been releasing trailer after trailer — usually not a good sign — and has yet to reveal itself. Apparently The Wolf of Wall Street, directed by Scorsese (do I have to write his first name? I don't think so) and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey, is going to clock in at three hours, so no trailer, no matter how long or how many, can give away all the good stuff. All they have done is make me eager to see this stockbroker meltdown story. What's grabbed you?

Mark: I'm looking forward to The Wolf of Wall Street too. But I've already decided that Inside Llewyn Davis, the new Coen Bros movie about the Greenwich Village folk scene in 1961, will be my favourite movie of the year. Perhaps I should actually SEE the film before making my decision, but I know, Richard, I just know! I've been waiting for someone to make a movie like this for a long time, and who better than the Coen Bros? The trailer looks terrific and Justin Timberlake looks perfect in his orange alpaca cardigan, not that it would influence my decision in the least.

RC: Timberlake is such a conundrum for me. He's a wildly talented guy whose movies frequently don't work. My fingers are crossed that for him, Llewyn is more Social Network than Runner Runner. Saving Mr. Banks is another one I'm looking forward to. I'm a sucker for old Hollywood so the story of Walt Disney (played by Tom Hanks) wooing P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) for the rights to Mary Poppins is up my alley. That, and I'd watch Thompson do anything — bake a chicken, read the phonebook or play an uptight spinster.

MB: Here's a guilty pleasure: Grudge Match, the story of two aging boxers facing off for the first time in 50 years. Since the boxers are played by De Niro and Stallone, it's like a dream mash-up: Raging Bull vs Rocky! I'm hoping Will Smith gets a dream sequence cameo as Ali. And let's not forget American Hustle, David O. Russell's new film about greed, lust, politics, and the Mafia. Sounds like a perfect title.

RC: Three things make me want to see American Hustle: the trailers (which are awesome), Christian Bale's beer gut and Jennifer Lawrence's extravagant hairdos.

MB: Wait! Make that De Niro's beer gut and Stallone's hairdo and it's a Grudge Match!

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Josh Gad never put his dreams on ice

Frozen. Actor was ready to give up on making it in show biz when his mother offered him some wise advice

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Josh Gad plays Olaf, the optimistic snowman in Frozen, which is playing in theatres now. CONTRIBUTED

Josh Gad, the voice of Olaf the optimistic snowman in the new Disney animated film Frozen, thanks his mom for some very well timed advice. "My mother, God bless her," he says, "allowed me to keep dreaming."

The story starts in 1993.

"I was sitting in a dark theatre watching Aladdin," he says. "Robin Williams is playing this insane genie character. I'm on the floor, as is the rest of the audience, and I looked over at my mom and said, 'I want to do that one day,' meaning, I want to be the comedic relief sidekick in one of these Disney films."

Cut to a decade later.

"I was about three years out of college and I called my mom up and said, 'I don't think I want to do this anymore.' She started crying. I said, 'I'm going to go to law school.' I thought my mother was going to celebrate that she wouldn't have to worry about me anymore. But she was really disappointed. And I said, 'Why are you disappointed?' She said, 'Because you've been dreaming about this for 15 years, but you are only allowing yourself to live out your dream for three years and I think that is unfair to yourself.' It was very startling to hear her say that."

"A week later I got my first big break on Broadway doing a show called The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. I guess it was at that time I realized I was going to be OK.

"Book of Mormon was the point at which I realized I had reached a new level. That I had made it. I wasn't a working actor anymore, I was an actor who was a part of something very special and that would allow and afford me more opportunities to do what I had dreamed of."

Those opportunities include starring in TV shows like 1600 Penn and movies like Jobs, and, of course, making his dream from 1993 come true with Frozen.

"To get that phone call, saying, you are that guy," he says, "I had to hold the phone down because I was sobbing with joy."

Olaf, his comedic sidekick snowman, already has at least one fan — Gad's young daughter.

"She was two-and-a-half when I took her to see her very first movie in a movie theatre, which was Monster's University. The teaser for Frozen, which featured just my laugh [played before the movie].

"Off of that laugh she turned to me and said, 'More dada. I want more dada.' I had to turn away from her because I was embarrassed by the tears."

Quoted

"To get that phone call, saying, you are that guy...I had to hold the phone down because I was sobbing with joy."

Josh Gad on getting the part in Frozen

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 29 TO THURS., DEC. 5 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Southland Mall 3025 Gordon Rd.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 7:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-4-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
About Time (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:35
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 12:40-3 Mon-Tue 5:25 Wed 1:35-5:25 Thu 5:25
Frozen (G) No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30 No Passes Wed 1:20
Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 7:05-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 3:40-7:05-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 8-10:25 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:35-8-10:25 Mon-Tue 6-8:15 Wed 1:40-6-8:15 Thu 6-8:15
Homefront (14A) Fri 7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:55-8:40 Wed 1:10-5:55-8:40 Thu 5:55-8:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-7:30-10-10:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-1-3:15-4:15-6:45-7:30-10-10:45 No Passes Mon-Tue 5:20-5:50-8:30-9 No Passes Wed 1:15-5:20-5:50-8:30-9 No Passes Thu 5:20-5:50-8:30-9
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri 7:50-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:25-7:50-10:20 Sun 4:25-7:50-10:20 Mon-Tue 6:05-8:20 Wed 1:30-6:05-8:20 Thu 6:05-8:20
Pipes & Sticks on Route 66 (PG) Sun 12:30
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat-Sun 12:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 3:30-7:20-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:40-8:25 Wed 1:25-5:40-8:25 Thu 5:40-8:25

Galaxy Cinemas Normanview S.C. 420 McCarthy Blvd. N. Unit

The Book Thief (PG) Fri 4:05-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:05
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 5:10-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:45-2:20-5:10-7:45-10:30 Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:10
Die Hard (18A) Thu 7
Frozen (G) No Passes Fri 4:20-6:55 No Passes Sat 10:55-1:35-4:15-6:55 No Passes Sun 1:15-3:55-6:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50
Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sun 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:50-10:25
How to Train Your Dragon (G) Sat 11
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) No Passes Fri 3:45-6:30-7-9:45-10:15 No Passes Sat 12-1-3:15-4:15-6:30-7:30-9:45-10:45 No Passes Sun 11:45-12:45-3-4-6:15-7:15-9:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-8:15-10 No Passes Fri 4:15-7:30-10:45 No Passes Sat 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-10:30
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (14A) Fri 5:40-8-10:40 Sat 12:50-3:20-5:40-8-10:40 Sun 12:50-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 Mon-Wed 8-10:20 Thu 9:55
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 9:40 Sat 9:35 Sun 9:40 Mon-Thu 9:25
Philomena (PG) Fri 5-7:25-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:30-5-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:50
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat 1:10 Sun 1:25
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4-7:15-10:05 Sun 4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:45

Kramer IMAX Theatre 2903 Powerhouse Dr.

Kenya 3D: Animal Kingdom (STC) Fri-Sun 2:15-4:45 Tue-Wed 1-3:30 Thu 1-3:30-7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7 Tue-Wed 2:15 Thu 2:15-4:45

Golden Mile 3806 Albert St.

All Is Lost (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7-9:20
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Sat 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:15 Sun 1:10-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:15
Carrie (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4-6:40-9:20
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:50-9:10
The Counselor (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:25
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:05
Lee Daniels' The Butler (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:35-9:15
Planes (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05
We're the Millers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-6:35-9:15

Regina Public Library Film Theatre, 23 11 12th Ave.

After Tiller (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 7
The Broken Circle Breakdown (STC) Thu 9
Call Me Kuchu (STC) Fri 9 Sat 7 Sun 9
It's Kind of a Funny Story (PG) Wed 7
Muscle Shoals (G) Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
A Universal Language (STC) Mon 7

Festive finds

Jacquie Lawson 2013 Advent Calendar

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iPad
Free

This free calendar from popular e-card artist Jacquie Lawson offers a charming animated story every day as a country village, filled with cosy shops and wildlife, prepares for Santa's arrival.

Avril Lavigne talks Chad Kroeger, getting wasted and her new album

Interview. The pop-rock princess opens up about her new husband, their courtship and cleaning up some of her lyrics

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Avril Lavigne makes no apologies for her pop-rock brand of music. GETTY IMAGES

On the cover of Avril Lavigne's newly released self-titled album, she looks all grown up, with a stern expression and dark makeup framing her eyes. But the first thing she sings on the album is the line "I don't care about my makeup," so it's probably best to pay heed to the age-old advice of not judging a book by its cover. Within Avril Lavigne is a whole bunch of fun anthemic pop that she'll be the first to tell you, doesn't really get too deep within Avril Lavigne. Sophisticated stuff, this is not, but there seems to be a friction on the album between the impulse to try to preserve her youth and the impulse to grow up. In conversation, Avril Lavigne is as laid back and self-assured as any of her songs would lead you to believe.

The feeling I get from this album is definitely a summer feel. It doesn't really seem very November to release an album with tracks like Bitchin' Summer and Sippin' on Sunshine.
It's funny because I asked myself if this was going to just turn out to be a summer record. We were doing a lot of writing in the summer, and I wanted to have a summer song, you know, driving in the car, good feeling, good times. For about a week I was writing songs like that. But this album has Sippin' on Sunshine and Bitchin' Summer. And then Rock N Roll kind of does have summer feel to it. The record was supposed to come out earlier, but they changed the date on me three f—ing times.

You seem caught between the sentiment of Here's to Never Growing Up and actually growing up ...
It's really not that deep, musically. I like to be on stage, I like to write pop-rock songs. That's what everyone wants to hear from me, and that's when everyone goes ape-shit, with the fist-pumping and all. But there are different sides to me, I enjoy sitting down at the piano and telling this in-depth story and writing an emotional ballad (but also) I love rock music, so I have Bad Girl on this record and Hello Kitty, which has a grungy electronic feel. So the album is diverse and I wanted to write all different types of styles and moods.

There are a lot of mentions of getting wasted on this album too. I feel like you don't hear that referred to in such a straightforward way that much on pop radio.
(Laughs.)

Do you have people that are saying that they can't get your stuff on the radio because of the content?
There is a clean version and an explicit version. It's something I definitely think about, but then I have the opportunity to offer two options.

With this album, you collaborated a lot with your husband, Chad Kroeger. I've heard it referred to as a snapshot of your relationship's development. At what point in the creative process did you guys realize there was truly something there? At what part of writing and working together did you guys fall in love?
Well, we worked on the album and he was on tour. Then he left and then we worked again. We worked in different clumps. When I had actually taken a break after the tour, I moved to France on my own. Then he came out to visit me and that was our first time getting together without it being work-driven.

Did any songs come about from the courtship?
We have a duet on this record. That was the first one we worked on together. Then we also worked on a song called If I said That I Loved You, and it's a duet, it's unreleased.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Blythe Danner. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Dear riff-raff: Stop bugging my extraordinarily accomplished daughter

Blythe Danner wants everyone to leave her daughter, Gwyneth Paltrow, alone. "I feel she's just extraordinarily accomplished in every area, and people don't like that," Danner says in an interview with the blog Naughty But Nice Rob.

"Some people don't like that, people who are bored and sit on their asses all day and just tap away. I mean, I don't read any of it, I just find it disgusting. There is a coarsening of our culture today that is just so tragic."

Under the provisions of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997*

Notice is hereby given that CoCo Nail Lounge Inc,
(Name of applicant: individual/corporation, etc)

has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for a Special Use - Salon Spa
(Tavern/Restaurant/Special Use/ Manufacturer)

Permit to sell alcohol in premises known as
CoCo Nail Lounge *(Name of establishment)* at 2nd Floor 3424 Hill Avenue Regina, SK *(Civic address ie: street/town)*

for which the following is a correct legal description:
(Describe accurately the location of the premises including lot, block and plan number and civic/street address)

The most south westerly 26 feet of Lot 15 Block 52 Plan No. FM 842

2nd floor – 3424 Hill Avenue, City of Regina, SK.

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

Write to:
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority
Box 5054
Regina Sk S4P 3M3

Australia

How Justin's new hobby is going over Down Under

An Australian hotel is declaring itself a graffiti Belieber, despite being at odds with the city government. QT Hotel in the Gold Coast said it gave Justin Bieber permission to spray graffiti on its wall. The Canadian singer and others posted images online showing cartoon faces in fluorescent paint on an outdoor wall at the hotel in Queensland state.

After hearing criticism, the hotel changed its Facebook page cover art Thursday to show Bieber, his graffiti and the declaration: "He asked, and we said YES."

The Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate says the singer risked undermining the city's efforts to fight graffiti. "The last thing we want is to have graffiti glorified and more young people thinking it's a cool thing to do," he said.

In a letter to the hotel, Tate asserted the city can insist on removal of graffiti in private spaces if it's visible from public spaces.

But in further posts on its Facebook page, QT Hotel defended Bieber as an excellent hotel guest and said it wanted to promote graffiti as an art form. It invited artists to share examples of their work to be judged, with select artists being offered a hotel wall they could spray-paint themselves.

Bieber performed in Brisbane on Wednesday and has more concerts in Sydney on Friday and Saturday.

The 19-year-old pop star arrived in Australia after a troubled Latin American tour.

He apologized to Argentinians after images appeared to show him dragging that country's flag across the stage with his feet. He quit one concert early after apparently contracting food poisoning, and police in Brazil want to question him about another graffiti incident there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kanye West

I didn't tell nobody not to buy no Louis Vuitton nohow, Kanye clarifies

Kanye West wants to clarify his stance on Louis Vuitton. The rapper insists he never ordered his fans to boycott the fancy fashion brand — since it would be unnecessary. "It's a misconception that I said boycott Louis Vuitton," he said during an interview with NYC radio station 92.3 Now.

"You can't boycott Louis Vuitton. I wouldn't tell nobody to boycott a brand that ain't nobody even thinking about no more. Nobody thinking about buying no Louis Vuitton." The beef apparently started after the head of the label declined West's request for a meeting.

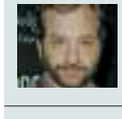
Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore

Ashton and Demi are officially unhitched

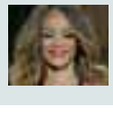
After first separating in late 2011 and filing for divorce almost a year ago, Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore have finalized their divorce, according to E! News. The papers were signed on Nov. 6 by Moore and on Nov. 14 by Kutcher, and according to the documents the parties have a written agreement about their shared property and neither will be receiving spousal support of any kind.

Twitter

@chelseahandler
I need auto correct for my mouth.



@JuddApatow
I feel like all modern technology in some form was introduced in the film Sleeper. Wasn't he doing online shopping?



@rihanna
Love the smell of NYC!

FretLight Guitar — $299 and up, left, LG SoundPlate — $499.99, below.

Holiday gift guide

Don't fret music lovers

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Music is the gift that keep on giving. Impress the audiophile in your life with one of these musical gadgets under the tree.

FretLight Guitar — $299 and up
Learn to play the guitar with a little high-tech help. LEDs light up the frets on this special guitar so you know exactly where to place your fingers. Download songs from your favourite artists or purchase entire sets of lessons. Available in acoustic and electric.

iPod Touch — $229 and up
There's a reason Apple's iPod remains the No. 1 MP3 player on the market. Beautiful design, gorgeous retina display and simple user interface make this a huge hit for all ages. Use it to store and play thousands of songs, or immerse yourself in the tens of thousands of apps.

LG SoundPlate — $499.99
This innovative speaker system sports a simple design, which doubles as a pedestal beneath your flat-screen TV. The 4.1-channel sound system comes with dual built-in subwoofers for rich, full sound while watching your favourite movies or TV shows. When your eyes get tired, enable the Bluetooth feature to listen to your favourite tunes from your phone or tablet. Available in December.

Philips ShoqBox — $149.95
Designed to withstand water and abuse, the ultra-durable ShoqBox is one for true road warriors. Two speaker drivers create loud, clear audio with the ability to pair two ShoqBoxes as left-right speakers. This unit doubles as a hands-free speaker for your phone.

Sony Walkman WH303 — $149.99
Headphones with a built-in MP3 player. Store up to 1,000 favourite songs with 4GB of internal storage, then decide how you want to listen to them. You can wear the headphones around your neck and let the built-in speakers pump out the tunes, or listen to your music privately with the headphones on your ears. A single charge will give you up to 20 hours of music enjoyment.

Skullcandy Crusher — $99.99
These headphones are designed with one thing in mind — bass. An adjustable bass slider will have music lovers fine-tuning their favourite tracks while an in-line mic on the cable lets you have phone conversations. These headphones are smart enough to turn on automatically when the tunes begin to play and turn off when not in use to preserve battery life.

Nuvo Wireless Music System — $229 and up
Spread music throughout the house. This system utilizes your home's Wi-Fi network to stream lossless level audio to multiple rooms. Supports music services such as Pandora, iTunes and SiriusXM satellite radio. This high-end system isn't cheap, but if you are an audiophile it's worth the hefty price tag of a complete system.

Mondo Wi-Fi Music Player — $179.99
Listen to radio stations from around the world. This Wi-Fi music player sports a beautiful 3.5-inch colour display that shows off station or album art as your favourite songs play. With more than 18,000 free radio stations to choose from there is always something to listen to.

SleepPhones — $39.95 and up
Pyjamas for your ears. These headphones are designed to play music while blocking light from your eyes to help you fall asleep faster. Play your favourite songs or download free full-length sleep tracks. Upgraded models come with play/pause/volume controls on the cord. Machine washable.

Sony Walkman WH303 — $149.99, clockwise, from top, Mondo Wi-Fi Music Player — $179.99, iPod Touch — $229 and up, Skullcandy Crusher — $99.99, SleepPhones — $39.95 and up, Philips ShoqBox — $149.95.

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Gift cards. To give or not to give is the question

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

When it comes to giving gift cards, 90 per cent of Canadians either purchase or give gift cards in any given year.

And this number is rising, says Steve Dekker, managing director of Blackhawk Network Canada, the company that runs many of the gift card mall kiosks within retail outlets in Canada. Still, many people worry when it comes to giving a gift card, so we asked Dekker to address some common concerns.

Gift cards give you the opportunity to tailor a gift and still let the recipient make the final choice. ANNA SUBBOTINA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Is it personal enough?
One of the biggest challenges for gift givers is finding just the right gifts. Gift cards for movies, restaurants, retailers or music give you the opportunity to tailor a gift and still let the recipient make the final choice.

I don't know what card they might like
Consider a Visa or MasterCard gift card. They might not be as personal, but the clear advantage is that they can be used anywhere. The disadvantage is there is an additional fee for these purchases.

I really like my friends and family to have a gift to open
Many people put gift cards into greeting cards or drop them into a stocking, but you can be more creative. Put them in small boxes and wrap them up or package them up with another gift so they can be unwrapped together.

I worry that the card may not work
The technology behind these cards is rock solid, but just in case, it's always wise to hold on to the activation receipt.

The card may expire before it's used up
There are consumer protection laws to prohibit expirations on cards or additional fees.

I'm worried the card might be forgotten or get lost and never be redeemed
Typically, the faster you use the card, the less likely this is to happen. Keep your gift cards in a handy place so you don't forget you have them.

What if you don't want the card you're given?
You can exchange or even return unused cards online for a small fee. Check out cardswap.ca for more information.

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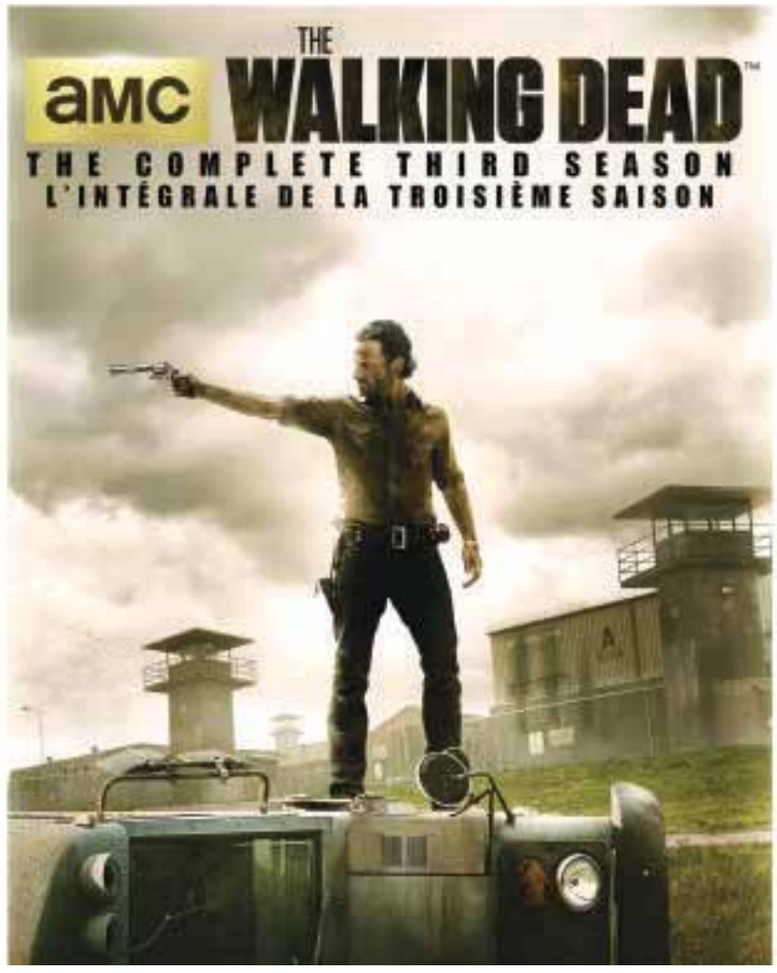
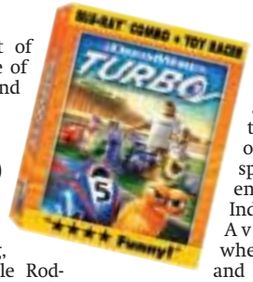


DVD delights

Settle down in front of the TV to enjoy some of these popular series and movies.



Turbo
With a great (voice) cast that includes Ryan Reynolds, Paul Giamatti, Michael Peña, Snoop Dogg, Maya Rudolf, Michelle Rodriguez and Samuel L. Jackson, this 3D comedy follows an underdog snail whose dreams kick into overdrive when he miraculously attains the power of super speed and enters the Indy 500. Available where DVDs and Blu-ray's are sold; $32.89 for Blu-ray on Amazon.ca.

Big Bang Theory, Season 6
Follow the antics of geeky physicists Sheldon Cooper and Leonard Hofstadter and their equally geeky friends. This popular American sitcom premiered in 2007. DVD $49.99, Blu-ray $59.99. Available at HMV — for a location near your visit hmv.ca.

Breaking Bad: The Complete Series
To provide for his family's future after he is diagnosed with lung cancer, a chemistry genius turned high school teacher teams up with an ex-student to cook and sell the world's purest crystal meth. This collectible replica money barrel contains every show along with special features and other commemorative items. $250 at Amazon.ca.

Walking Dead, Season 3
A sheriff leads survivors in search of safety after the zombie apocalypse. In Season 3, they find refuge in a prison ... but not for long. DVD $49.99, Blu-ray $59.99. Available at HMV — for a location near your visit hmv.ca.

Offers in effect Thursday November 28th, 2013 to Wednesday, December 4th, 2013 unless otherwise stated, while quantities last

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Liquid Assets

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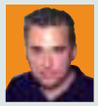

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

After more than two decades of taking it on the chin from their New World counterparts, the winemakers of Europe are making a comeback. While France and Italy are seeing the biggest upsurge in popularity, Spain, Germany and Austria are harvesting the benefits of the growing interest in their juice.

Yes, I said Austria — a country I bet you didn't know has been making wine for more than four centuries. Impossible-to-pronounce regional names and grape varieties that are virtually Austrian exclusive haven't helped the cause.

Though reds make up about 30 per cent of the country's output, whites are Austria's claim to fame. Typically drier and zippier than those made by its German neighbours, whites with the Grüner Veltliner grape have made a modern name for themselves as a partner for Asian cuisine (think sushi).

With its Franz Ferdinand-esque label and phonetic first name; the Grooner 2012 Grüner Veltliner ($13.11 - $16.99) is a modern take on old-school Austria with citrusy fruit, balanced acidity and a clean, green finish.

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A modern take on a Hanukkah tradition

Three Root Vegetable Latkes. The perfect fall-inspired recipe

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Potato latkes are a traditional Jewish or Eastern European dish, especially served on Hanukkah. I wanted to make a healthy version, so I used a blend of root vegetables. Use the grater blade of a food processor to grate the veggies.

1. In a skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, add the oil, onions and garlic. Sauté on medium heat for 10 minutes until tender. Add the sugar and sauté another 5 minutes. Place in a mixing bowl.

2. Squeeze out the excess moisture from the grated vegetables.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups diced onion
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 2 tsp brown sugar
- 2 cups grated peeled sweet potatoes
- 2 cups grated peeled baking potato
- 1 cup grated peeled parsnips
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh dill or 1 tsp dried
- 2 eggs
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup tzatziki

This recipe serves six. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Add the vegetables to the onion mixture along with the dill, eggs and salt and pepper.

3. Pat into 12 latkes. In two large non-stick skillets add 1 tbsp vegetable oil sauté on a medium heat the latkes for about 7 minutes per side or until vegetables are soft. Serve with the tzatziki.

Restrictions

Please be advised that this recipe may not meet all Jewish dietary or traditional requirements.

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

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Will the RedBlacks risk picks on free agents?

Expansion Draft. Travelling that route could result in players signing elsewhere after Feb. 15

Grey Cup MVP Kory Sheets headlines the list of free agent players. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An enticing list of prospective CFL free agents is out, but football fans shouldn't get carried away drawing up their wish lists just yet.

On Thursday, the CFL unveiled which players are slated to become free agents at noon EST on Feb. 15. Among them are Grey Cup MVP Kory Sheets and receivers Weston Dressler and Taj Smith, who all helped the Saskatchewan Roughriders defeat the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 45-23 in the league's championship game Sunday at Mosaic Stadium.

More than 120 players are scheduled to test the free-agent waters. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers have the most (23), including linebacker Henoc Muamba, the East Division's top Canadian this year.

The Calgary Stampeders, who posted a league-best 14-4 record, have 21 players with expiring contracts. Montreal and Saskatchewan are next with 19 each while the B.C. Lions have the fewest (six).

The reason for the abundance of potential free agents is simple. On Dec. 16, Ottawa RedBlacks GM Marcel Desjardins will select 24 players (eight imports, 16 Canadians) over three rounds to stock his expansion team. Desjardins will take eight imports in the first round before selecting eight Canadians in each of the final two.

The eight other CFL GMs can protect any of their players, including those heading into free agency. However, there's a challenge Ottawa faces taking unprotected prospective free agents. If they don't want to sign with the RedBlacks, they simply have to wait until Feb. 15, when they're able to join the teams of their choice.

Another hurdle Ottawa faces is taking pending free agents who have re-signed with their former clubs before Dec. 16 but not registered the deal with the CFL. Being selected by the RedBlacks would give those players the unique opportunity to sign with the expansion squad because the deal with their former teams wouldn't have been sent to the league office.

However, Ottawa would hold exclusive negotiating rights to the pending free agents until Feb. 15. Once the players became free agents they could register their pre-arranged contracts with the CFL to make them legal and binding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

QB targets

Ottawa is scheduled to return to the CFL next season and the club's biggest off-season question is who will play quarterback.

- Free-agent possibilities include, clockwise from top left, Toronto's Zach Collaros, Hamilton's Henry Burris, Edmonton's Matt Nichols and Montreal's Josh Neiswander.

Concussion lawsuit

Vaive wants name removed from lawsuit

Former Toronto Maple Leafs captain Rick Vaive has asked that his name be removed from the concussion lawsuit against the NHL.

Vaive's lawyer Trevor Whiffen claims the former 50-goal man wasn't provided with a copy of the claim beforehand and that he would not have agreed to the allegations made against the NHL had he been asked to review its contents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

DeMarco delights Dallas fans with touchdown troika

DeMarco Murray did the finishing work for the Dallas Cowboys. Backup Lance Dunbar made his job a lot easier.

Murray ran for three touchdowns, Dunbar had a career-high 82 yards rushing and the Cowboys overcame Oakland's fumble return for a score on the opening kickoff to beat the Raiders 31-24 Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Lions recover from rough start

The Detroit Lions were dominant after a shaky start and snapped a few losing streaks.

Matthew Stafford made up for some mistakes with three touchdown passes, including one to Calvin Johnson, to help Detroit score 37 straight points to beat the Green Bay Packers 40-10 on Thursday.

The Lions (7-5) had lost their last two games, five consecutive against Green Bay and a franchise-record nine straight in their annual showcase on Thanksgiving. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This should be an encouraging day and even if you don't accomplish anything remarkable, you will still make progress. Though what seems like no big deal to you may look remarkable to others.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to put yourself under stress today because the planets suggest you will get more out of life if you take things easy. Treat what look like a major setback as no more than a minor irritation.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is no point complaining unless you intend to change it. If you give rivals the idea that you are upset about what they are up to, they might decide to do it more.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Something you used to get a great deal of joy from no longer thrills you. In a way that's good because it means you can devote the time and energy you spent on it to more serious creative matters.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Flattery will get you everywhere today and will be especially useful if you want to make a good impression on the work front. People in positions of power like to be told how wonderful they are.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Speak up and say what is on your mind but don't expect any applause. If you have any criticisms maybe you should try to make them sound more like positive suggestions.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You won't solve a problem by trying to force others to see it from your point of view. If they get the impression that you feel you are intellectually superior to, them they will go out of their way to defy you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try saying nice things to important people today. You may not believe a word of it but if you can get employers to support what you are doing it could mean the difference between success and failure.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There have been times of late when it felt as if you were at the mercy of events but it isn't as bad as you think. With the Sun firmly placed in your sign, you should be more upbeat about your prospects now.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make it your aim to find something to enjoy in everything you do. Whatever it is you are working on there is no reason why it should not make you smile.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be eager to push ahead with a project but the planets indicate it might be best to wait a few days. Both tomorrow's Sun-Uranus link and next Tuesday's new moon will bring about new ideas.

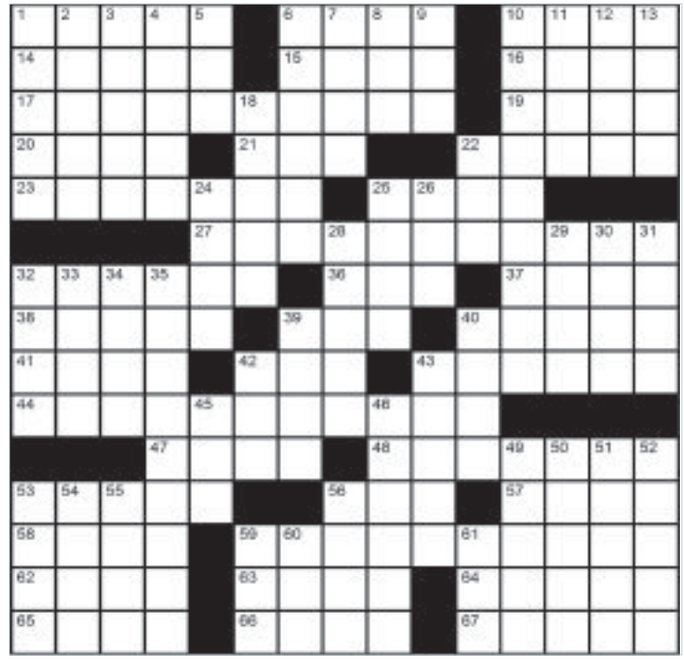
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will see only what you want to see today. That's fine, but if you close your mind completely to new possibilities you'll be the loser.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



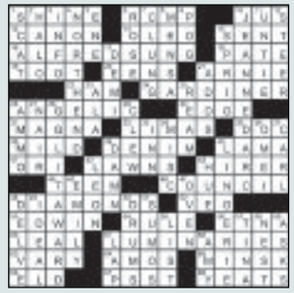
Across

1. Vermicelli
6. Piece of the puzzle
10. Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyles website, __.com
14. Gelatin mould dish
15. James __ (Pulitzer-winning writer)
16. "__ la Douce" (1963)
17. Racecar driver Jacques, an honoured member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame
19. Achievement
20. Good vs __ (Superhero's battle)
21. Bar beverage
22. Rock
23. Embark on a cruise: 2 wds.
25. Earth
27. It kicks off the Christmas shopping season: 2 wds.
32. Figures of speech
36. Sanction
37. Store event
38. Moved off course
39. "Way cool!"
40. Scatter
41. Docking spot
42. Sighed sounds
43. Snow-packed ski runs
44. Historic building from 1886 where The Second City in Toronto was famously located: 3 wds.
47. Fertilizer ingredient
48. Record-breaking building category
53. Quality
56. "Frasier" character
57. "Ah, me!"
58. This spot
59. Singer from Saint-Ignace, New Brunswick: 2 wds.
62. Buffalo kind
63. __ Cooper
64. Beaver-ish looking animal
65. Look after
66. Assorted [abbr.]
67. Highway-crossing animals

Down

1. Does road work
2. "__ __ always said..."
3. __ pea soup
4. Cash register drawers
5. Hotshot
6. Spain: Valencian dish of rice
7. Fluish feeling
8. Gun the engine
9. Football prop
10. Thingies put out annually by Oprah Winfrey, and most recently, Gwyneth Paltrow: 2 wds.
11. Celebrated cookie
12. Muscat is its capital
13. Hors d'oeuvre spread
18. Manicurist's concerns
22. Military address
24. Sleep Country Canada purchase, __ __
25. Timetable, cool-style
26. Commonly, poetically
28. English punk band, with The
29. Dash
30. Sheltered, nautically
31. Archery bow trees
32. Spellllling boo-boo
33. Racetrack fence
34. Was in debt
35. Chanel No. 5's magazine page: 2 wds.
39. Ms. Perlman
40. Window ledge
42. Go-Go's smash: "Our Lips __ Sealed"
43. Shopping __
45. Galway's country [abbr.]
46. English pop trio, __ Kitten
49. Espresso style
50. Upper crust
51. More sensible
52. Boris Godunov, and others
53. Fantastic, in slang
54. Boulevard in Montreal, __-Levesque
55. Cast or Wrought
56. Also-__
59. "This is yummy."
60. Crossword rendering of a segment of a road's dotted line
61. Mr. Stewart

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

7		9				2		6
	8		5		4		1	
2								3
		4	1		3	8		
	6						4	
		7	2		5	6		
4								8
	3		8		9		6	
9		8				1		5

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	9	3	7	5	1	2	8
5	1	2	8	9	4	6	7	3
7	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	4
2	7	4	6	8	1	3	9	5
8	9	6	5	3	2	4	1	7
3	5	1	7	4	9	8	6	2
9	2	8	4	1	7	5	3	6
1	3	5	2	6	8	7	4	9
6	4	7	9	5	3	2	8	1

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